

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:

a base;

an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base; and

at least two retention members that extend from said base ~~into and are formed from material that is removed to define~~ the inflator opening, wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base,

wherein said retention members are adapted to extend substantially perpendicular to the base.

2. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said inflator opening is provided between said retention members.

3. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the two retention members include a surface that is formed to define a cavity.

4. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 3 wherein the surface is an arcuate surface and wherein said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from said base than said lip.
5. (Original) The bracket of claim 3 wherein said retention members further define a retention cavity.
6. (Original) The bracket of claim 5 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.
7. (Original) The bracket of claim 6 wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.
8. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 2 wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg that is angled relative to said first leg and a center leg that is disposed between said first and second legs.
9. (Original) The bracket of claim 8 wherein said legs define a retention cavity and wherein said first leg defines a first engagement surface within said retention cavity and said second leg defines a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) An airbag subassembly comprising:

a support structure having at least two apertures;

a bracket comprising:

 a base;

 an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base; and

 at least two retention members that extend from said base into and are formed
~~from material that is removed to define~~ the inflator opening, wherein said retention
members are formed integral with said base,

 wherein said retention members are adapted to extend substantially perpendicular
to the base, and

 wherein said retention members are adapted to extend through said apertures in said
support structure.

11. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a retention
mechanism coupled to said support structure to engage said retention members to couple said
bracket to said support structure.

12. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 11 wherein said retention members define a retention cavity, and wherein said retention mechanism is disposable into said retention cavity.

13. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

14. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism includes an engaged position and said retention mechanism engages said first and second engagement surfaces in said engaged position.

15. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 14 wherein said retention mechanism includes a rest position, and said retention members include an insertion point, a contact surface and a lip that is positioned between said contact surface and said insertion point and wherein said insertion point, said lip and said contact surface displace said retention mechanism from said rest position as said retention members are inserted into said aperture, until said retention mechanism becomes disposed in said retention cavity in said engaged position.

16. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism partially obstructs said apertures in said rest position.

17. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a sealing plate.

18. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 17 further including a housing that is positioned between said sealing plate and said support structure, said housing defining at least two pin receivers to allow said retention members to pass through said housing and into said apertures on said support structure.

19. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a housing.

20. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a retainer ring.

21. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a stamped metal bracket with said retention members being stamped integral with said base.

22. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 21 wherein said bracket defines the inflator opening between said retention members.

23. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a horn bracket.

24. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature.

25. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a horn bracket between said support structure and said bracket, said horn bracket defining at least two pin receivers for allowing passage of said retention members to said apertures.

26. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature and said bracket is a horn bracket.

27. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said retention members include at least three contact areas for engaging said apertures.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening; and

bending said retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with the base.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of stamping said metal sheets includes forming a retention cavity in said retention members.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base and curling said retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of curling said retention members to form shaped retention members.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base after said step of curling said retention members.

33. (Currently Amended) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:
a base;
an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base; and
at least two retention members that extend from said base ~~into and are formed from material that is removed to define~~ the inflator opening, the retention members having a curved shaped, including a curved interface at a portion of the at least two retention members that contact the base, wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base, and wherein said retention members are adapted to extend substantially perpendicular to the base.

34. (Previously Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;
defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening or that extend outwardly from the base;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening;

curling the retention members to include a curved interface at a portion of the retention members that contact the base; and

bending the retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with the base.